



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR GUARD UNIT

A deployment ceremony will be held for approximately 160 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company at 10 a.m. (CT) Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Harrisburg High School at 1300 W. Willow St.

The public is encouraged to attend. Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG.

The 1742nd will deploy to Afghanistan for a year-long tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The mission of the 1742nd is to provide transportation of both dry and refrigerated containerized cargo, general non-containerized cargo and bulk water and fuel products. The unit's headquarters is located in Sioux Falls and its Detachment 1 in Flandreau.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 1742nd, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004 and in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-1991.



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## 129TH WELCOMED HOME

A welcome home ceremony for eleven Soldiers of the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, South Dakota Army National Guard, was held today at Camp Rapid. The unit returned home after a 9-month tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit deployed last February to Fort Dix, N.J. to complete their pre-mobilization training before proceeding to Afghanistan.

Maj. Wayne Asscherick, commander of the MPAD described the mission of the unit in Afghanistan. "(One) part of our mission was to perform media embeds," said Asscherick. "We embedded over 200 civilian media with our combat troops."

The mission of the Rapid City-based 129th was to manage the media embed program, advise and assist in training Afghan National Army personnel in public affairs and to record and report the events taking place in their area of responsibility within Afghanistan. The 129th was assigned to three locations in the 101st Airborne Division's sector of Afghanistan.

"During our deployment, we collected hundreds of hours of video and took thousands of pictures to tell the story," said Asscherick.

Speakers for the ceremony included Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG.

"Thanks you for doing a challenging job in a not so friendly place," said Daugaard. "Thank-you Soldiers of the 129th for giving me freedom."

Two teams within the MPAD were responsible for assisting the Afghan National Army to promote a sense of stability among the general populous.

"Two of our teams worked with the Afghan National Army," said Asscherick. "They trained them on how to communicate with the public in order to gain their confidence."

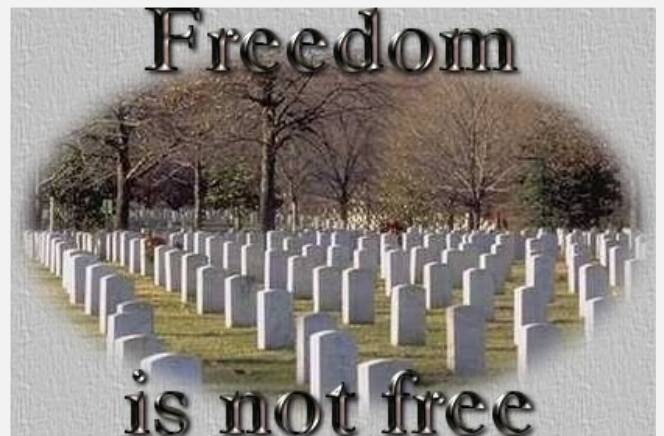
Daugaard summed up the mission of the MPAD in his remarks. "Without military public affairs the world would not know the story," said Daugaard. "One day, you will all be a part of the 'Day in History'."



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 11:00 am (Central Time) at the Flaming Fountain Veterans Memorial near Capital Lake at the State Capitol in Pierre, SD.

This event is held in conjunction with the National Wreaths Across America Project.



## GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET INCLUDES ONE TIME MONIES TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VETERANS HOME

During his budget address this week, Governor Daugaard presented his proposed budget for FY 2015. His proposed budget includes the use of excess revenues to fund the state's portion of the construction of the state's new Veterans Home.

Utilizing cash to fund the state's portion of the cost of constructing the new Veterans Home will alleviate the need for the Department to go to the bond market and will save taxpayers millions of dollars in interest payments.

Governor Daugaard's proposed budget will be reviewed by the legislators during upcoming legislative session.

### One-time Proposed Expenses

Prepay Bonds	\$58,132,054
Prefund Building South Dakota	\$30,000,000
Pay Cash vs. Borrowing for State Vet's Home	\$16,365,044
Eliminate UAAL for Cement Plant Retirement	\$5,598,495
BOR Health Insurance Tuition Shortfall	\$2,600,000
SDSU Swine Facility Construction	\$2,037,000
Public Safety Building Construction	\$1,400,000
Missouri River Rail Bridge Repair	\$1,200,000
Health Care Provider Loan Fund	\$1,000,000
New South Dakotans/Dakota Roots	<u>\$500,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$118,832,593</b>

## THRIVENT DONATES FUNDS TO STATE VETERANS HOME

A concert, featuring the Shrine of Democracy men's barbershop chorus, as well as the Abbey Road Band, was held Saturday, November 16, at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn.

Members of the Thrivent Community-Black Hills and NW Nebraska Thrivent Financial for Lutherans hosted the concert and donated all proceeds to the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Homme. Proceeds totaled over \$5,000.



(L to R) Matthew Huether, Calvin Sievers, Donald Lu-dens, Larry Zimmerman



## SIoux FALL VAhCS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Darwin G. Goodspeed as the new director of the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System.

"We are excited to bring Mr. Goodspeed on board as the new Director of the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System," said Ms. Janet Murphy, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 23) Director. "His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the health care system, the employees, volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve. We anticipate he will arrive at the Sioux Falls VA medical center within the next 30 to 45 days to begin his appointment."

Mr. Goodspeed has worked more than 16 years in health care leadership positions within VA, Department of Defense (DoD), and the private sector. He most recently served as Associate Director of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and as Acting Director of the Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center, Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Goodspeed holds graduate degrees in Management from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri; a Master in Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire College, Manchester, New Hampshire, a Master in Health Care Administration from Baylor University, Waco, Texas and an undergraduate degree in Business Management/Information Systems from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System provides health care to approximately 29,000 Veterans in South Dakota, southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa. The health care system is a teaching hospital providing a full range of patient care services with state-of-the-art technology, as well as education and research, a community living center and five community based outpatient clinics.

Comprehensive health care is provided through primary and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care.

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System is one of eight health care systems, 60 community based outpatient or outreach clinics, eight community living centers and four domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs within VISN 23. VISN 23 covers 392,000 square miles and serves 422,992 enrolled Veterans residing in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Darwin Goodspeed has an exceptional background and possesses the leadership, knowledge, and skills necessary to successfully lead the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System into the future.



## SDNG MUSEUM WINS PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD

The South Dakota National Guard Museum was awarded the "People's Choice Award" in Pierre's Parade of Lights held last Saturday evening.

Museum Director Sonja Johnson continues to promote the Museum in community events in an effort to raise the awareness of the museum.

The mission of the National Guard Museum is to acquire, preserve, protect, and display military equipment, records, relics, and memorabilia representing the heritage of the Dakota Militia and the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard. The museum also educates National Guard members and the general public about the heritage of the

South Dakota National Guard both in peace and at war. The South Dakota museum is one of only 20 authorized National Guard museums in the nation. The museum is a non-profit organization which also receives a small amount of state funding. The museum is staffed by a curator and local volunteers knowledgeable about all displays.



### COURAGE TO CALL

**Courage to Call** provides free, confidential information, support and referrals to military members and their families in Sioux Falls.



DIAL 2-1-1



- Financial Assistance
- Family Conflicts
- Housing
- Crisis Support
- Addictions
- Education
- Benefits

Search online for resources  
**helplinecenter.org**

**helpline**  
center

### 211 Offers Military Families Hope, Help

The Helpline Center stands ready to help Sioux Falls area service members, Veterans and their families when they have simple questions, or when they need serious help, through its Military and Family Support Program.

The Military and Family Support program connects those who have sacrificed for our country with the help they deserve through its 211 phoneline, answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Help and Hope are just three simple numbers away.

The Helpline Center also provides an online database of resources for its Military and Family Support program. Visit [helplinecenter.org](http://helplinecenter.org) to find specific military resources, military discounts at local stores, an events calendar, educational information and much more.





## Veteran's Holiday Homeless Relief Drive

*Benefiting Military Families in need and Homeless Veterans*

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 15 OF SIOUX FALLS  
AND  
AUTUMN SIMUNEK, MISS SIOUXLAND

### Contribute ALA "Buddy Basket(s)"

**Home-warming Welcome Recipe:** Assemble a Laundry Basket/Waste Basket filled with: Paper Towels – Bathroom Tissue – Window Cleaner – Scrubbing Cleaner – Rubber Gloves – Cleaning Sponges – Dust Pan w/Hand Broom – Light Bulbs – Shower Curtain w/rings – Bath Towels – Laundry Detergent – Eating Utensils – Dishes - Frosted with clear wrap, bow and greeting tag/card

### Contribute Single Item(s) of need

Towels – Sheets (single bed) – Shower Curtains – Alarm Clocks – Hygiene Products (shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, etc.) – Shopping Gift Cards – Household Kitchen Items – Winter Coats – Gloves – Hats

### Monetary Donation(s) - Checks payable & mailed to:

American Legion Post 15, Attn: Veterans Build  
1701 Legion Drive Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
Rapid City Cornerstone Mission, Attn: Vet Relief Drive  
P.O. Box 2188 Rapid City, SD 57709

### DROP-OFF CONTRIBUTIONS ITEMS:

THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2013

- THE BROADCASTER/PLAIN TALK  
201 W CHERRY STREET, VERMILLION, SD
- BERAKHAH HOUSE -  
400 N WESTERN AVENUE, SIOUX FALLS, SD
- RAPID CITY CORNERSTONE MISSION -  
30 MAIN STREET, RAPID CITY, SD
- RadioShack® -  
204 S Chicago STREET, Hot Springs, SD

*Thank you for supporting Rapid City Cornerstone Mission,*

*Sioux Falls Volunteer of America, Dakotas' Veteran Outreach and Berakhah House; American Legion Post 15 Veterans Build – Homeless Housing Fund*

## BUTTE COUNTY DAV VAN DRIVERS RECOGNIZED

This week, Butte County hosted a “DAV Van Drivers Recognition Day” at the Butte County Commissioners meeting. The nine drivers collectively have 39 years of service and 5,033 volunteer hours.

Those recognized were:

Kim Brill (less than 1 year - 59 hours of service;  
Stu Henderson (five years - 438 hours),  
Melvin Shuck (nine years—1,193 hours),  
And Keith Wallen (3 years - 258 hours).

Not Pictured: Alvin Shaw ( 9 years - 2,312 hours), Gene Miller (two years - 91 hours), Howard Reid (five years - 507 hours), and Earl Reber (five years and 175 hours).



(L to R) James Agar (Butte County Commissioner), Kim Brill (driver), Stu Henderson (driver), Melvin Shuck (driver), Keith Wallen (driver) and Bob Wagner, (Butte CVSO).

## VETERANS TO RECEIVE 1.5 PERCENT COST-OF—LIVING INCREASE

Veterans, their families and survivors receiving disability compensation and pension benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase in their monthly payments beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

For the first time, payments will not be rounded down to the nearest dollar. Until this year, that was required by law. Veterans and survivors will see additional cents included in their monthly compensation benefit payment.

For Veterans without dependents, the new compensation rates will range from \$130.94 monthly for a disability rated at 10 percent to \$2,858.24 monthly for 100 percent. The full rates are available on the Internet at [www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp).

The COLA increase also applies to disability and death pension recipients, survivors receiving dependency and indemnity compensation, disabled Veterans receiving automobile and clothing allowances, and other benefits.

Under federal law, cost-of-living adjustments for VA's compensation and pension must match those for Social Security benefits. The last adjustment was in January 2013 when the Social Security benefits rate increased 1.7 percent.





## SDNG AND SURINAME PARTNERSHIP

Senior leaders from the South Dakota Governor's Office and the National Guard visited the Republic of Suriname; South Dakota's State Partnership Program nation on Nov. 25-26. The visit to the South American country was an opportunity to reinforce the existing partnership between the South Dakota National Guard and Suriname military.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, met with U.S. Ambassador to Suriname Jay N. Anania and Suriname Minister of Defense Lamuré Latour to collaborate on ideas for working together and to provide training opportunities for both organizations. They also had the opportunity to greet Suriname President Dési Bouterse during Suriname's National Day celebration.



"The South Dakota and Suriname partnership has been a very positive relationship. This not only includes joint military activities but also humanitarian efforts throughout the years," said Ambassador Anania during the visit. "Meeting with key leaders helps to reinforce the importance of the partnership and to continue our goals for the program."

"The relationship has been long-standing and we have exchanged information and subject matter experts for the benefit of all involved," said Lt. Gov. Michels of the partnership.

The South Dakota and Suriname partnership was formally established in August of 2006. Since then, numerous exchanges have taken place between South Dakota and Suriname to share experiences and best practices in a variety of military training.

"South Dakota's partnership with Suriname has become widely known as one of the most active and enduring partnerships of any state or territory," said Reisch. "In spite of changes in civil or military leadership, the partnership has continued to strengthen year after year." "We want to continue to develop exchanges that benefit both countries," added Reisch. "Increasing the number of personnel that we can involve in future exchanges will serve to enhance the overall value for both partners."

Michels and Reisch also had an opportunity to watch South Dakota National Guard female Soldiers partake in Suriname's National Day parade; where a color guard detail carried U.S. and S.D. flags and marched alongside Suriname's armed forces and civil support agencies.



The presence of South Dakota's first ever color guard in the national day parade was highlighted by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in a Nov. 25 State Dept. press release stating, "the participation of a Suriname-South Dakota National Guard color guard in this year's National Day festivities underscores the ties of friendship between the people of Suriname and the United States."



# Upcoming Events

## 2013

Dec. 6—SD Veterans Council Legislative Roundtable—American Legion—Watertown  
Dec. 7—SD Veterans Council Legislative Roundtable—DAV Post—Sioux Falls  
Dec. 14—SD Veterans Council Legislative Roundtable—VFW—Rapid City  
Dec. 14—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

## 2014

Jan. 14—South Dakota Legislative Session Opens  
Jan. 18- 129<sup>th</sup> MPAD Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Rapid City  
Jan. 24-26—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Crossroads—Huron  
Jan. 25-26- 235<sup>th</sup> MP Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Chamberlain Cedar Shore Resort  
Jan. 31—SD Veterans Council Breakfast with Legislators—6:30 am  
Feb. 6—American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre  
Feb 15-16- 152<sup>nd</sup> Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Sioux Falls  
Feb. 18-20—SDDVA New VSO Orientation—Sioux Falls  
Apr. 5-6—152nd Yellow Ribbon  
May 2-4—DAV Conference—Ramkota Hotel—Aberdeen  
Jun. 19-22—American Legion Conference—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
Aug. 25-27—SDDVA Veterans Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer  
South Dakota Department of the Military <http://mva.sd.gov>  
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>  
Soldiers and Sailors Building  
425 E Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-773-8242  
E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

